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BULGARIAN COAL PRODUCTION; CRITICISM OF COAL MINES

COAL PRODUCTION INCREASES -- Sofia, Geografiya, Vol 1, No 8, 1951 (article signed by Tyanko Yordanov)

In 1950, Bulgarian coal production was over 5 million tons, which is about the same as the total coal production in 1936, 1937, and 1938. According to the 1951 plan, coal production will increase 25 percent in comparison with 1950. This is 10 percent more than the former planned production for 1953, which is 6,500,000 tons.

The following table gives the index figures for industrial production in Bulgaria (1939 = 100):

	1948	1949	1950	Plan for 1953
Total industrial production	171	220	270	370
Power production	207	250	302	670
Coal production	196	540	263	320
[Industrial] machine production	3,130	1,670	2,440	6,514
Agricultural machine production	312	560	890	

ANTHRACITE COAL TESTED -- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 2 Jun 53

Tests which have been conducted at the anthracite mine in Draganitsa, Berkovitsa Okoliya, established that the coal found there had only 2 percent ashes and 0.7 percent sulfur. This coal is suitable for the production of carbide, which is used by the "Lenin" Metal Plant (metalodobivniya zavod)

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/"Lenin" State Metallurgical Plant? The anthracite mine administration in Svoge, which controls the "Draganitsa" Anthracite Mine, has not taken steps to exploit the mine. For one year the management of the carbide factory in Iliyantsi ordered anthracite from the "Draganitsa" Mine, but received no delivery. Only 40-50 workers are active at the mine.

MINE CRITICIZED -- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 13 Jun 53

The "Khadzhi Dimitur" Coal Mine /in Stara Zagora Okoliya? is the largest of the "Chumerna" Mines. The mine did not fulfill the plan for 1952, and the plan for the first quarter of 1953 was fulfilled only 80 percent. The April 1953 plan was fulfilled 90 percent. In two years, five technical directors were replaced. Mining engineer Tsanko Atanasov, who is the present technical director, does not know how to organize coal production in the mine. The mine has few machines; it does not even have a compressor. The management is not planning the preparation of new faces. The fourteenth face is now being completed. The preparation of galleries is lagging. One gallery was scheduled to be dug 250 meters in 1952, but only 50 meters were dug. This year, the plan calls for digging 250 meters of the same gallery, but digging has not begun. No work is being done on the sixth shaft, of which 100 meters are scheduled to be dug.

Miners are constantly shifted from one work area to another; they are late in starting work, and often are found standing idle in front of their shafts.

Because of a lack of supervision some layers are not supported by beams. Tsanko Atanasov rarely visits the shafts. Because of the poor attitude of section chief Rayko Slavov toward his men, some miners have left the mine. Mine facilities are poorly exploited. The three conveyor belts in the mine carry only 25 percent of their capacity load. Mining cars frequently jump the tracks, and valuable time is lost while the scattered coal is cleaned off the tracks. Miners in Shaft No 100 once were without air for a long time. Electric installations are frequently damaged. The fifth shaft has been under construction since 1944 and still has not begun to operate.

The mine management thinks that the "Knadzhi Dimitur" Mine is unable to fulfill its production plan; consequently, all efforts have been devoted to improving other mines, which are in good condition.



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